

MINUTES
OF THE
MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION'S
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

APRIL 25, 2013

The MPA Professional Development Committee met on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the MPA office. Chairperson Dan Joseph convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Bosk, Candace Crane, Matthew Gilbert, Daniel Joseph, Paula McHugh, Kevin Perkins, and Timothy Reynolds.

MEMBER ABSENT: Karen Criss.

STAFF PRESENT: Jeanne Crocker.

WELCOME: Chairperson Joseph welcomed committee members who then shared some reconnecting thoughts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY on a MOTION by Crane/Reynolds.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Dick Durost shared information on the upcoming report card grades for schools, budget deliberations, and the work of the Maine Educator Effectiveness Council.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR REVIEW OF 2012-13: The decreased numbers of registrants was attributed primarily to issues of funds and time, as well as distance for some people. Matt Gilbert explained that districts involved in the Western Maine Education Collaborative are pushed to pursue their professional development through WMEC as those costs have already been paid and the offerings are held after school hours. This is also true for schools in the Maine Consortium for Customized Learning. More than in the past superintendents are driving the focus/initiatives of schools and districts. Gary Bosk explained that MPA's Fall and Spring Conferences were irrelevant to the work being undertaken in his district (Marzano's The Art and Science of Teaching and standards-based education). It was agreed that the MPA should focus on what leaders need.

SPRING CONFERENCE: Evaluations were reviewed with members agreeing that response to the presenter was mixed. The facility was fine. People want more depth of leadership development. Discussion sessions were poorly attended. The MLTI sessions had strong attendance. It was suggested that perhaps the conference should be held in Bangor to entice more people to attend. Perhaps members should be surveyed. One suggestion was that attendees should be required to sign up for concurrent sessions in advance. Another suggestion related to determining needs during the day to inform topics/questions for sessions later in the day. An app could be created for collection of this input, as could a flipchart. Presenters could be asked to leave five minutes at the end for people to input their topics/questions. It was asked whether webinars should replace conferences.

Committee members unanimously supported Mike Mattos as keynote presenter on "Revitalizing Your PLCs" for Spring Conference, March 27-28, 2014.

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REVIEW OF 2012 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SURVEY: All of the topics are determined to be inter-related, with the question of what people mean by “standards-based” asked. It was determined that we need to drill deeper to determine what people mean. The survey needs to ask more specific questions. The MPA needs to help build the leadership capacity to lead school change, not focus on specific initiatives (“The Challenge of Leadership”).

FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 21-22, 2013: Committee members did not determine a conference theme. The two-day conference format with the law pre-conference being added to the conference schedule on Thursday morning was supported. Concurrent sessions should include: school-based presentations (with specific invitations to the schools the commissioner has visited), MLTI, MELMAC, Sarah Estabrook on literacy, coaching teachers, school culture and climate, Linda Laughlin, Fort Kent’s 13th year, DOE, university folks (What are their future plans?), expansion of charter schools, teacher evaluation, Troy from the agricultural charter school, Pender Makin, supervision and evaluation (TIF schools), Data Warehouse, new administrator topics such as survivability and Smarter Balanced. Keynote presenters could include Atul Gwande or Andy Hargreaves. It was decided not to invite the commissioner to present a keynote.

ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF REGIONAL MEETINGS IN 2013-14: Committee members supported the expansion of principal PLC’s for school administrators.

COMMITTEE WORK FOR 2012-2013: No determination was made regarding specific committee work for the coming year.

OTHER: Committee members supported the idea of discussions with other associations that might lead to co-sponsorship of “big name” presenters such as Daniel Pink and Marzano associates (The Art and Science of Teaching and teacher supervision and evaluation).

Committee members support the continuation of the current MPA practice of calling and welcoming new administrators.

SELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2013-14: On a MOTION by Crane/Gilbert and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY Dan Joseph was selected chair for 2013-14.

MEETING DATES FOR 2013-14: Friday, August 2 (9:30-12:00) and Wednesday, December 4, 2013 (9:30-12:00). The third meeting date of the year will be determined at the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Crocker
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
4/29/13